

Analytic rubrics are not simply teacher tools. They are designed to support students.

- ✚ Prior to designing your rubrics, define the purposes and objectives of your assessment. Consider how your assessment supports the essential questions and enduring understandings that your students have been challenged to explore.
- ✚ Articulate criteria for each defined objective.
- ✚ Stop and reflect:
 - Have you provided criteria for each objective?
 - Have you inadvertently included criteria that are unrelated to your objective?
- ✚ Involving your students in the process of rubric design deepens their understanding of what quality work looks like.
- ✚ Distributing rubrics as tasks are assigned allows students to focus on what counts. It also allows them the opportunity to reflect on their performance and monitor and adjust their work in-process. Consider making this an expectation, and check to see that students meet it.
- ✚ Use your rubrics to develop models, identify mentor texts or samples, and plan think-alouds.

Quality analytic rubrics are inclusive of the unique abilities of the students in your classroom.

- ✚ Although common rubrics may be designed to define quality as it relates to specific grade level expectations, ensure that the ability levels of all of **your** students are represented on the rubric by including criteria dimensions for students below and above grade level.
- ✚ Students may use these rubrics to continually benchmark their own progress and focus on the criteria that must be fulfilled in order to move performance to increasingly higher standards.

Analytic rubrics provide a framework for deep reflection and self-assessment.

- ✚ Students can use rubrics to reflect upon areas of strength, areas of weakness, and the criteria for each objective.
- ✚ Teachers are challenged to think critically about the purposes and objectives of their assessments as well as the criteria that define them when they commit to using rubrics.
- ✚ Rubrics also provide teachers criterion-specific data that can inform their instruction and allow them to leverage student strengths to address weaknesses.

Analytic rubrics can significantly enhance the quality of teacher, peer, and parent feedback.

- ✚ Analytic rubrics relay the criteria around which meaningful conversation and peer review can occur.
- ✚ They help address paper load issues that often prevent teachers from providing consistent, immediate, and criteria-based feedback.
- ✚ When parents understand expectations clearly, they can coach their children more effectively at home and inform their self-assessment processes. Rubrics also minimize the frustrating effects of miscommunication around expectations and objectives.